



MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2020

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Commercial harvests are still low due to COVID-19. Mid-month, restaurants were allowed to re-open with outdoor service, but it hasn't seemed to boost markets much. The "June-uary" weather hasn't helped.
- Boats are mainly harvesting blood clams and quahogs. Perhaps Asian markets have re-opened for blood clams, and quahog clams are familiar to consumers both at retail and in restaurants and are easily cooked, as opposed to oysters which are typically eaten in mostly in restaurants on the half shell.
- On commercial patrol, we conservatively estimate the harvest of approximately 188.75 bushels of quahogs, about 92 bushels of oysters and 175.75 bushels of blood clams (which is double last month's catch of blood clams).
- The recreational fishery went from seven days a week throughout most of the harbor to the summer schedule (from June 1 through September 30) of only Sundays and Wednesdays and only at the Indian Neck recreational area. The catch totals observed were 14.8 bushels of quahogs and 28.5 bushels of oysters.
- We fielded many calls and emails from the public re: obtaining recreational shellfishing permits and worked closely with the Principal Clerk and Beach Dept. staff to accommodate all who wanted to pick up their permits in person. Many thanks to both for their patience and assistance!
- Grant inspections started at the beginning of the month. Civetta helped new grant holders with state propagation permit paperwork.

Enforcement

- A few non-license holders attempted to collect shellfish at Burton Baker Beach and Indian Neck. We took their catch away and returned the shellfish to the harbor.
- A commercial shellfisherman was observed fishing over the closed line in the prohibited area at the Herring River. The fisherman got a verbal warning, and all of the catch was returned to the closed area. Two more poles were added to the river to help guide fishermen on determining the closure line.
- There was a call about an out of town boat hand dredging shellfish in the harbor. We had a tip on which boat it was, and the next day Deputy Constable Chris Manulla paid them a visit during boat patrol, explaining our regulations and getting confirmation that they were not currently engaged in this activity.
- We responded as best we could to numerous complaints about dogs on the beach near shellfishing areas, especially Mayo Beach, Powers Landing and Indian Neck.

State and Town Relations

- The Department worked with the Shellfish Advisory Board to finalize revisions to overwintering regulations, and Civetta attended an SAB meeting for final vote.
- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta worked with the state comparing our patrol notes with their catch reports to ensure as many shellfishermen as possible are entitled to CARES Act Relief from different pots of funding, e.g. aquaculture and wild.

- We submitted paperwork to participate in the contaminated quahog relay, as soon as it opens in July. It has been delayed nearly two months due to COVID-19.
- Civetta took our state biologist out for water quality testing twice.
- Civetta attended a Herring River Restoration Project public hearing where the development of regional impact decision was approved.
- Civetta and Deputy Constables Chris Manulla and Drew Ryan attended a Zoom meeting about the CZM Shoreline Management Grant report out that Wellfleet participated in.
- The department is working with the Conservation Department regarding property owners adding revetments and beach nourishment. Civetta and Manulla each attended a Conservation Commission hearing about one of these at Old Wharf Point.
- Civetta attended a number of EMT/BOS meetings re: COVID-19, as well as a Selectboard meeting where Ryan was sworn in as Deputy Constable for another year.
- Civetta submitted FY21 spending plan for July – October.

Propagation

- Assistant Constable John Mankevetch planned, oversaw and implemented a wide variety of propagation activities this month, as follows.
- Each June, we implement a cultching program to deposit whole sea clam shells in different intertidal areas of the harbor to attract juvenile oysters to set on and grow, thereby increasing wild oyster populations available to commercial and recreational harvesters. We would like to thank the DPW for their continued partnership in this; we could not do it without them. Last year, they fixed the spreader, and with our new barge and two new outboard motors, we had no issues while deploying the clam shells in the harbor for the first time. We started June 1 and finished in three weeks! This year, we kept a logbook of our runs. Our total was 91 runs, which were placed in Chipman's Cove, Herring River, Indian Neck, Blackfish Creek and Lieutenant's Island.
- The department worked on preparing 41 spat collectors with a mixture of cement, lime and sand for deployment in Chipman's Cove to catch wild oyster spat.
- The department put buoys in Chipman's Cove for grant holders to place spat collectors.
- The department put out two sets of experimental cultch bags in Chipman's Cove.
- We received one truckload of whole sea clam shell from Atlantic Capes for our 2021 cultch program at the Transfer Station.

Education and Public Relations

- Mankevetch met Diane Murphy to assist with the County's quahog sampling study.
- Civetta was asked to speak at AmeriCorps graduation. She prepared a video talk and then attended the event via Zoom.
- Civetta continued sending welcome emails to recreational permit holders with overviews of important regulations and shellfishery updates.
- Civetta reached out to all 2019 recreational shellfishing permit holders who had emails on file to advise them of the Town's decision not to sell seasonal shellfishing permits due to COVID-19 this summer and advise them on obtaining an annual permit.
- We sent out one commercial and one recreational Town Shellfish Crier newsletter each.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable